## Message Text

## CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DOHA 00210 161229Z ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SP-02 INR-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 OMB-01 PM-03 TRSE-00 /038 W

-----161233Z 062615 /10

R 161043Z FEB 77 FM AMEMBASSY DOHA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2325 INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI AMEMBASSY JIDDA AMEMBASSY KUWAIT AMEMBASSY MANAMA AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

CONFIDENTIAL DOHA 0210

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PINT, QA

SUBJECT: QATAR INTERNAL: RUMORS OF CHANGES TO BE ANNOUNCED ON ANNIVERSARY OF AMIR'S ACCESSION TO POWER

REF: DOHA 0146

1. AS FEB 22 FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF AMIR'S ACCESSION TO POWER APPROACHES THERE HAVE BEEN USUAL SPATE OF RUMORS THAT THERE WILL BE DRAMATIC ANNOUNCEMENTS OF APPOINTMENTS AND OTHER SWEEPING CHANGES TO PUT GOVT OF QATAR AND HOUSE OF AL THANI IN ORDER. USUALLY UNRELIABLE LOCAL SOURCES TELL US THAT AMIR WILL DESIGNATE SHAYKH HAMAD BIN KHALIFA AL THANI, COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE ARMED FORCES AND HIS OLDEST SON, AS CROWN PRINCE AND SHAYKH MUHAMMAD BIN HAMAD AL THANI, HIS BROTHER AND FORMER AMBASSADOR TO LEBANON, TO PRESTIGIOUS POST OF MINISTER OF EDUCATION. THESE MOVES WILL REPORTEDLY CATALYZE SHAKEUP AND PUT ALL THINGS RIGHT.

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2. COMMENT: WE HAVE HEARD ALL THESE STORIES BEFORE, AND THEY REGULARLY RECUR AT TIME OF SOME SPECIAL OCCASION SUCH AS FEB 22 ANNIVERSARY. TO DATE IT HAS BEEN ALL TALK AND NO ACTION, AND ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NO PARTICULAR REASON TO BELIEVE THAT IT WILL BE ANY DIFFERENT THIS TIME, WE ARE REPORTING IT FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH.

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Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

## Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z

Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am Channel Indicators: n/a

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Subject: QATAR INTERNAL: RUMORS OF CHANGES TO BE ANNOUNCED ON ANNIVERSARY OF AMIR'S ACCESSION TO POWER

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